

From ab4e1.com Tue Aug 9 21:44:24 1994
From: WaltN@aol.com
Subject: Re: 2BP1 CRT needed

Roy,

I don't have another WWVC receiver, but would be glad to keep my eyes open for you. I picked this one up at the Pery, GA hamfest last week, but will be going home to SF this weekend and will be hitting one of our flea markets there on Sunday. Any budget in mind if I see one (I wouldn't pay more than \$75 for one, myself)?

73 de Walt

From ab4e1.com Thu Aug 11 12:20:11 1994
From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: ALL SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE READ

Paul Prescott, who maintains this mailing list, is away on extended emergency leave. No one knows where he is or how to reach him. The person he asked to maintain the list is apparently not keeping tabs on requests to subscribe/unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe from boatanchors, send email to boatanchors-request@gnu.ai.mit.edu. In the body of the message, put UNSUBSCRIBE [EMAIL ADDRESS]. Then, be prepared to wait as long as it takes for action. Sorry, folks, but that's the reality. To err is human, to really foul things up requires a computer.

You might pass this along to anyone you know who's trying to subscribe, as well. Posting subscribe/unsubscribe mail just makes it WORSE.

73

Jim Kearman, KR1S
jkearman@arrl.org

From ab4e1.com Thu Aug 11 14:54:16 1994
From: Fire Bottle archive handler <firebot1@jackatak.raider.net>
Subject: All the Administrivia on the List

Forgive me, for I am a sinner... It has been nearly two weeks since my last heated posting on this subject...

I am astounded at the number of people in ".edu" sites and those who

hold management jobs that probably require an education who do NOT seem to be able to master the basics of reading and comprehension of basic english...

This list is *manually* maintained. The list owner has been away for an extended period on a personal family emergency... and, unless he snuck back without telling anyone, until he returns, any requests for administrative actions will just have to wait.

PLEASE, until Paul returns and can honor the requests for subscriptions and cancellations (and fix the bad addresses that reject fire bottle mail) just relax...

Use your "D" key... get a life... this list is for a hobby and having to wade through countless "please take me off" and "subscribe aaa@bbb.edu" requests detracts from it a tad...

Use common sense and amaze us all. Direct administrative stuff to:
boatanchor-request@gnu.ai.mit.edu
and, if that doesn't get instant results, figure the FCC is running the list and count on 17 weeks to get things done... ;^) and most of all,
* * * * *
STOP POSTING THIS GARBAGE TO THE LIST AS A WHOLE!
* * * * *
If a request to the admin address didn't work, what possible logic would lead you to believe the List as a whole has powers beyond those of the owner? Sheesh!
73,
Jack, W4PPT/Mobile (75M SSB 2-letter WAS #1657 -- all from the mobile! ;^)

Fire Bottle Server (Boat Anchors Get Out and Keep You Warm!)
firebotl@jackatak.raider.net
Where Old Radios and Fun ... GO TOGETHER!
+-----human interface: root@jackatak.raider.net -----+

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 18:13:05 1994
From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: Any knowledge of these?

I'd like brief specs on this stuff, if anyone has it:

ARC-133/ARC-34

Collins 17L4 transmitter
Collins 51R3 receiver (HF aviation stuff)

R-445/ARN-30

R-32

ARC-58/ARC-112

SCR-585 (I'd like to get one of these if it won't break the bank)

From ab4e1.com Fri Aug 12 15:05:57 1994
From: tech@cs.athabascau.ca (Richard Loken)
Subject: Anybody have a snailmail address for Don Mertz

I have money to send him that I promised to send on the 15th. I need an address so I can keep up my end of the bargain.

"I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a boatanchor today..."

Well actually it was the layaway plan.

Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS : "...underneath those
Athabasca University : tuques we wear, our heads
Athabasca, Alberta Canada : are naked!"
** tech@cs.athabascau.ca ** : - Aurthor Black

From ab4e1.com Fri Aug 12 17:06:00 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Re: Anybody have a snailmail address for Don Mertz

In your message of 12 Aug 1994 at 1439 EDT, you write:

> I have money to send him that I promised to send on the 15th. I need an
> address so I can keep up my end of the bargain.
>

When I need Don's address, I always look in the latest issue of ER..
Of course, you can find mine in there, also.. 8-))

Anyhow, the address is:

47 Hazel Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
U.S.A.

Hey, Don! Can I get a commission on this one? A 1938 ARRL handbook will do.. 8-)

73,

Larry, KQ4BY

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:21:03 1994

From: DUBE2@delphi.com

Subject: Austin Hamfest

Austin hamfest was not as good this year as last. Saw several{pieces of old stuff...Some Collins gear.... a BC348 in very nice condition (external) But I diid find that schematic/manual for the Gonset G66 receiver I have been looking for. It came with a working G66B receiver (didn't know they made a "b" version. Soon's I get the hum outta the G77 tx, I'm on AM! 73,

Dube Todd

AB5AP

<dube2@delphi.com>

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:22:14 1994

From: Emil Switzer <SWITZER+_E%A1%Electromagnetic_Sciences@mcimail.com>

Subject: BA PLACES

TO: BOATANCHORS

I AM GOING TO BE OUT IN THE BAY AREA/SILICON VALLEY LATER THIS WEEK. ARE THERE ANY BOATANCHOR OR SURPLUS PLACES WORTH VISITING?

73,

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:20:37 1994

From: David Josephson <david@josephson.com>

Subject: Re: BA PLACES

> TO: BOATANCHORS

>

>

> I AM GOING TO BE OUT IN THE BAY AREA/SILICON VALLEY LATER THIS WEEK. ARE

> THERE ANY BOATANCHOR OR SURPLUS PLACES WORTH VISITING?

>

Yes:

Halsted Specialties 3500 Ryder, Santa Clara

Haltek 1062 Linda Vista, Mountain View

Test Lab - across the parking lot from Haltek - ask for any BA test gear and make silly offers

Alltronics 2300 Zanker Rd, San Jose

Mike Quinn Electronics Oakland Airport north field

ACE Berger Drive San Jose (parts only)

--

David Josephson / Josephson Engineering / San Jose CA / david@josephson.com

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:23:38 1994

From: Nick England <nick@cs.unc.edu>

Subject: Birthday !!

Tomorrow is the 2nd anniversary of the founding of the boatanchors list.
Many thanks Jim Lockwood KM6NK wherever you are.....

=====

>From Jim.Lockwood@Eng Thu Aug 13 14:15:53 1992

To: boatanchors@acidqueen.Eng.Sun.COM

Subject: testing, testing....

I've put together an alias on my machine for those of us who have
been swapping info on DX100/TX1 class rigs this week. It consists
at present of:

250-<mal@cosmid.apl/dbio.com>

250-<brewer@anarky.enet.dec.com>

250-<nick@sunpix.East.Sun.COM>

250 <zardo@rx-db.hf.intel.com>

250-Jim Lockwood <lockwood@acidqueen>

and can be reached/used by mailing to:

boatanchors@acidqueen.eng.sun.com

At the risk of actually having to maintain this alias instead of
doing Real Work, I will probably announce its existence on the net
and be willing to add folks to it as/if demand warrants.

Altho consisting of those of us with 100lb Heath transmitters at
present, I have no interest in moderating this alias or restricting
it to just that breed of rig. I'd rather see it be used for any
discussion concerning any firebottle rigs.

73,

Jim - KM6NK

=====

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 19:02:20 1994
From: "Menachem Galatz DC" <mgalatz@panix.com>
Subject: Boatanchor Questions

Hi Guys,

I have 4 questions that I'm putting in 1 post:

- 1) Can someone list the different SSB converters that work with the R390A with a brief description of their differences?
- 2) Is there an archive somewhere for this net?
- 3) Which was the top of the line Hammarlund receiver and transmitter?
- 4) Is there such a book as Jane's military communication equipment?

Thanks

Menachem

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 01:25:15 1994
From: Fire Bottle archive handler <firebotl@jackatak.raider.net>
Subject: Boatanchor Questions

Menachem-

> I have 4 questions that I'm putting in 1 post:
I am only permitted one response per post... house rules ;^)

> 2) Is there an archive somewhere for this net?
Yup... ain't you red my .sig? Have'em since Jan/March of a year ago...
I lost the first several due to an error in judgement and fat
fingers with too much age and abuse...

73,

Jack, W4PPT/Mobile (75M SSB 2-letter WAS #1657 -- all from the mobile! ;^)

Fire Bottle Server (Boat Anchors Get Out and Keep You Warm!)

firebotl@jackatak.raider.net

Where Old Radios and Fun ... GO TOGETHER!

+-----human interface: root@jackatak.raider.net -----+

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 23:39:46 1994
From: JosephWP@aol.com
Subject: Re: Boatanchor Questions

Menachem,

In answer to questions 3 & 4.

I think that the top of the line Hammarlund receivers were: SP-600, HQ-180AX and HQ-215. No so sure about transmitters.

Also, yes, there is a series of books, Jane's Military Communications, published periodically. I have three volumes.

I, too, would like to know if there is an archive.

Joseph +

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 12:19:48 1994
From: "Roy Morgan" <morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov>
Subject: Re: Boatanchor Questions

On Tue, 09 Aug 94 21:23:14 EDT,
JosephWP@aol.com <JosephWP@aol.com> wrote:

>I, too, would like to know if there is an archive.
>
>Joseph +
>

This excerpt is from the welcome message I got in January '94: It may not be accurate now.

Welcome to the boatanchors (boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu) mailing list!

This list is primarily for the discussion of vacuum tube radio gear
...
...

The keeper of the Faq is John, brewer@anarky.enet.dec.com

Requests for archives of past postings should be directed to Jack GF Hill at tubereq@jackatak.raider.net

-- Roy --

Roy Morgan / Tech A-266 / NIST / Gaithersburg MD 20899

301-975-3254 Fax: 301-948-6213 Internet: morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 21:04:58 1994

From: WaltN@aol.com

Subject: Re: Boatanchor Questions

Menachem:

>1) Can someone list the different SSB converters that work with the R390A with a brief description of their differences?<

I only know of one personally, the B&W Model 370 SSB Adapter. Works great with the 390A (or any rcvr with a 455 kHz IF).

>3) Which was the top of the line Hammarlund receiver and transmitter?<

The SP-600-JX series is arguably the "best" Hammarlund, but I prefer the HQ-180 or -180A for SSB and general program listening (I have both and use the 180 far more).

73 de Wat

lt

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 02:44:57 1994

From: glitwin@craysea.cray.com (Gary Litwin)

Subject: Boatanchors archive site info...

Greetings -

Steve Modena (I think!) posted the following a little while back:

>From: bamodena@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Message-Id: <9406081501.AA100335@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>

Subject: BoatAnchors e-list via Gopher

To: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu (Steve Modena)

Date: Wed, 8 Jun 94 11:01:41 EDT

Cc: modena@sunsite.unc.edu

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]

Status: RO

Someone asked about BOATANCHOR e-list via Gopher:

A little more than one month ago I began archiving the messages of the BoatAnchor e-list at SunSITE.unc.edu.

I strip most--but not all, of the header and thread them by "Subject:"

to group the discussion ideas.

After my signature is the "link" info needed to point your Gopher client at the appropriate place.

If you have telnet only, then telnet to "sunsite.unc.edu" and login as "gopher" and chose the numbered menu options in this order:

5, 3, 8, 3, 3, 8

at which point you will see the BOATANCHOR menu item, along with the gopher-readable archives of: W8UOF's QST digests

Think.com QRP e-list

rec.radio.amateur.ANTENNA

rec.radio.amateur.HOMEBREW

COLEM

...and more stuff

If you have FTP, then look at the link-info line "path" to see the descent path to BOATANCHOR.

73/Steve/AB4EL samodena@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

-----Cut Here-----

#

Type=1+

Name=Archives of the BOATANCHOR e-list

Path=1/../../pub/academic/agriculture/agronomy/electronics+computers/BOATANCHOR

Host=calypso-2.oit.unc.edu.

Port=70

Admin=Jonathan Magid and Simon Spero, 919-962-9107 <ftpkeeper@sunsite.unc.edu>

ModDate=Wed Jun 8 09:55:54 1994 <19940608095554>

URL: gopher://calypso-2.oit.unc.edu.:70/11/../../pub/academic/agriculture/agronomy/electronics+computers/BOATANCHOR

Size	Language	Document Type
.5k		application/gopher-menu
.5k		application/gopher+-menu
.5k		text/html

Server Information

Gary Litwin
glitwin@craysea.cray.com

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 15:37:54 1994
From: bamodena@csemail
Subject: Re: Boatanchors archive site info...UPDATED

This updates the info on the GOPHER-type archive of the BOATANCHORS elist... the change is due to the rearrangement of one menu item by the keepers of the SunSITE archive site...a place to be explored in wonder for all kinds of interesting info in electronics form!

[I can not email directly to Menachem Galatz, because he forgot to put his real email address below his signature *inside* the email message, which is a *nesessity* on Internet.]

> Steve Modena (I think!) posted the following a little while back:

>
> >From: bamodena@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
> Message-Id: <9406081501.AA100335@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>
> Subject: BoatAnchors e-list via Gopher
> To: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu (Steve Modena)
> Date: Wed, 8 Jun 94 11:01:41 EDT
> Cc: modena@sunsite.unc.edu
> X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.3 PL11]
> Status: RO

>
>

> Someone asked about BOATANCHOR e-list via Gopher:

>

> [For several months now], I be[e]n archiving the messages of
> the BoatAnchor[s] e-list at SunSITE.unc.edu.

>

> I strip most--but not all, of the header and thread them by "Subject:"
> to group the discussion ideas.

>

> After my signature is the "link" info needed to point your Gopher
> client at the appropriate place.

>

> If you have telnet only, then telnet to "sunsite.unc.edu" and login
> as "gopher" and chose the numbered menu options in this order:

> 5, 4, 8, 3, 3, 8

| (the following expands the above number sequence with selection titles)

|

| 5. Worlds of SunSITE -- by Subject
| 4. Browse All SunSITE Archives
| 8. academic
| 3. agronomy
| 3. agriculture

| 8. Electronics & Computers

```
> at which point you will see the BOATANCHOR menu item (#6), along with
> the gopher-readable archives of: W8UOF's QST digests
>           Think.com QRP e-list
>           rec.radio.amateur.ANTENNA
>           rec.radio.amateur.HOMEBREW
>           COLEM
>           ...and more stuff
>
> If you have FTP, then look at the link-info line "path" to see the
> descent path to BOATANCHOR.
>
> 73/Steve/AB4EL  ab4el@Cybernetics.NET
>
> -----Cut Here-----
> #
> Type=1+
> Name=Archives of the BOATANCHOR e-list
> Path=1/../../pub/academic/agriculture/agronomy/electronics+computers/BOATANCHOR
> Host=calypso-2.oit.unc.edu.
> Port=70
> Admin=Jonathan Magid and Simon Spero, 919-962-9107 <ftpkeeper@sunsite.unc.edu>
> ModDate=Wed Jun  8 09:55:54 1994 <19940608095554>
> URL: gopher://calypso-2.oit.unc.edu.:70/11/../../pub/academic/agriculture/
agronomy/electronics+computers/BOATANCHOR
>
>
> Size      Language      Document Type
> -----
> .5k              application/gopher-menu
> .5k              application/gopher+-menu
> .5k              text/html
>
>
> Server Information
>
>
> -----
>
```

73/Steve Modena/AB4EL ab4el@Cybernetics.NET

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 19:10:49 1994
From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: Boneyard Report, Central Georgia

A Connecticut Yankee in Georgia
Copyright 1994, ARRL

Well, for a while there, I thought I'd died and gone to Heaven, but here I am, back in Newington again, so I guess not.

Thanks to the efforts of Larry Keith, the Central Georgia Radio Club, Middle Georgia Radio Club and the Macon Radio Club, I've just returned from a whirlwind four-day visit to the Warner Robins area.

Arrived in Atlanta Thursday night, dined on awesome barbecue en route to KQ4BY's.

Friday morning, Larry blindfolded me and drove me some distance, turned me around three times and removed the blindfold. Now that I was thoroughly lost, we visited a couple of boneyards. The spirit was willing, but the wallet was weak! See followup posting listing radios about which I'd like more info.

After lunch at Kandy McKuen's (Texas Steak sandwich with some great green relish!), it was off to the Warner Robins Aviation Museum. If you've never been there, I recommend it highly. I actually got to touch an SR-71.

Friday afternoon we loaded Larry's pickup well over the weight limit and drove to the site of the Perry, GA International Hamfest, a beautiful fairgrounds. Larry signed up for seven (!) tables, and we unloaded the truck. After we checked out a few other dealers, we headed for the barn.

Saturday morning at 6 AM (!!) we arrived at the hamfest again, after a great breakfast at a local Waffle House. I watched the folks buying stuff I never would have believed would sell (what is that guy gonna do with all those relays?) until 10 AM, when it was time to earn my keep. Nice to see so many boatanchors folks together. We almost got everyone together for a photo.... My talk was on how to safely return a boatanchor to operation, most of which I've discussed on this list. Just before my talk, the Macon Radio Club gave me one of their jackets. I'm almost looking forward to the cooler weather, so I can wear it!

In the flea market, I got myself a 7.5 amp variac and a couple of other items I'll be listing separately later. Other than the stuff Larry had, the only other boatanchor I recall seeing was an NC-300 that sold before I got over to look at it. Larry's stock (mostly sold) more than made up for it. I think he still has the HQ-129X and the SB=100, though.

Saturday night, the locals had dinner at a Mexican restaurant. I mentioned having nearly been stationed in Warner Robins 25 years ago, and a club member who happens to be in the squadron I was headed for popped up and gave me a squadron hat. It's a beauty!

Sunday we hit the museum again, then headed up to Macon to a gun show. At the gun show I finally acquired something I've been after for some time: a TG-5 telegraph set. It's a beauty, and came with the original canvas carrying case. It's not for sale!

Monday, I was blindfolded again for a return to the boneyards. This time I bought a Narco Mark 12 airband transceiver. It's a firebottle rig, but has the 50-kHz channel spacing. Frequency selection is by mixing two banks of crystals. It looks serviceable. I need to find out where Narco is located so I can see about getting a manual. I'll mostly use it at the airport to monitor the Unicom frequency, but it may have other applications when I start cross-country soaring. I'll be using a solid-state HT in the glider, though.

All good things must come to an end, and yesterday afternoon Larry brought me back to Atlanta airport for the return trip. I checked the box of goodies in as luggage. Glad we didn't have to open it for inspection, as Larry really taped/tied it up. I had to borrow a chainsaw to get it open.

I had a great time! If you ever get the chance to meet Larry and the gang down there, don't miss it. I understand their next hamfest will be in early April 1995, and I plan to be there.

73

Jim, KR1S

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 12:34:31 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Central GA Bone Yard Report

Well, Kearman's story is almost true. I never blindfolded him. I just took a different route to the bone yards each time.. And, since we don't mark the roads too well, around here, it wasn't difficult to get him lost..

As for the hamfest, I can add a couple of things to the list..

1 SB220 changed hands..
1 Allied SX(AX?)-190 wandered in from the Bone Yard.
1 KWM2A and 75S3 were outside, early in the morning..
John, W4MST, had his usual assortment of clean test equipment.

I bought a homebrew VHF xmtr to salvage the small variables from it. Had to pay \$1.00 for it. But, some guy with a new \$5.00 bill talked me out of it.

I also found 3 Nye-Viking Code Practice Oscillators, the kind that

have a key mounted on a black crinkle finish base with the oscillator in a little box on the end of the base.

And, Bruce Lister managed to find a couple of old ARRL handbooks that I missed. Walt is already looking for data and parts for the unique WWV receiver that he found.

Bob Scott, Neal, and I were disappointed that there was no Drake gear in sight..

Wandering around the bone yards with Jim was very educational.. The guy has sharp eyes when it comes to discovering a gem amongst a pile of junk!

After a few weeks to recover from this one, it will be time to start planning the next hamfest...

Whew!

73,

Larry, KQ4BY

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 16:06:24 1994
From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: RE: Central GA Bone Yard Report

Larry Keith said:

>Well, Kearman's story is almost true. I never blinfolded him. I just
>took a different route to the bone yards each time.. And, since we
>don't mark the roads too well, around here, it wasn't difficult to get
>him lost..

He didn't see the pocket GPS receiver I was carrying....

>Wandering around the bone yards with Jim was very educational.. The
>guy has sharp eyes when it comes to discovering a gem amongst a pile
>of junk!

I'm available to accompany you through the boneyard of your choice, in exchange for a roundtrip airline ticket and a place to sleep. As much as it breaks my heart to see this stuff sitting outside, I could wander through piles of military gear for days!

73

Jim

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 11:42:33 1994
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: CU-168 Antenna Coupler

to: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu

Greetings, Troops.

Well, I ordered a pair of the CU-168/FRR antenna couplers that were on the system a couple of weeks ago, and they have arrived.

If anyone out there was undecided about getting one, I'd recommend doing so ASAP; these things are GORGEOUS! They were beautifully overhauled and refinished at a military depot. Each one has a new manual and AC power connector (no cord; make up your own), sealed on vaporproof packages.

They are, without a doubt, the answer to the old problem of too many receivers and not enough antennas. In addition, for those who use (if you'll pardon my filthy language) solid state receivers, this thing is a good piece of insurance; this big, ugly tube monster makes an excellent buffer for the static charges that antennas are prone to pick up, sparing your radio's delicate front end devices from premature demise.

There was considerable discussion about "oddball" input and output connectors on this box. To me, anyway, they don't seem all that odd; both units have flanged chassis mount type "N" females for input and all outputs. If your shack isn't standardized on type N (yet), there are two strategies available.

For the lazy, a trip to the local Rat Shack store will supply adaptors that convert type N to practically anything you want. For the more industrious, the Rat Shack trip will yield up a half dozen SO-239s. An hour's work with a Phillips head screwdriver and a soldering iron will quickly and easily alleviate the problem. BTW, if you don't want those nasty 'ol "oddball" connectors that you're taking off, feel free to send 'em to me; I'd be more than happy to put these silver plated MIL-spec oddities to work on MY gear!!!

There was also considerable discussion about the input / output impedance, 70 ohms.

In my case I'm keeping it "as is"; the signal loss between a 50 ohm antenna and this thing's 70 ohm input is insignificant. After a study of the manual, it looks like changing the input impedance isn't too much of a problem.

The input goes into an impedance step-up transformer (broadband ferrite) that raises antenna impedance to 1000 ohms, and feeds it to a short length of

balanced feedline within the unit. The individual channel amplifiers are tapped across this line., and it's far end is terminated with a 1000 ohm H-pad.

If I were to change this thing to 50 ohms, I'd simply change the 5 resistors in the H-pad to terminate the line at 715 ohms, or, since I'm not looping two of them together, eliminate the H-pad altogether, put 715 ohms across the line section, and let it go at that.

The 70 ohm outputs, once again, present a negligible signal loss to a 50 ohm receiver. In my case, 70 is a good compromise figure because in addition to feeding 50 ohm input receivers I'm feeding R-390 / R-390A sets, which are designed for 125 ohm input.

For some time I've been using a section of video jackfield to patch antennas and receivers together, and this works out beautifully with the CU-168. Using type N female to type BNC female adaptors on the outputs, and short jumpers of discarded video cable to tie the CU-168 to the jackfield, I now have available five identical antenna outputs from each unit that can be patched to any receiver in the shack in seconds. One CU-168 is tied to a T2FD cut for the low HF bands (1250 - 6250 KHz), and the other is tied to a T2FD for high HF (5500 - 27,500 KHz).

This kind of combination makes for a pretty slick setup, IMHO.

Mr. T, K9TA

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 06:45:05 1994
From: "PMD G.SIFAKIS" <pmdsif@isoft.intranet.gr>
Subject: Re: CV-157

Larry KQ4BY asks:

Have run across a couple of CV-157 SSB adapters.. Were these the ones used with the R-390A Receivers?

R-390A was the primary target (they even look similar), but any receiver with an IF of 450 to 500 Kc and an IF OUT jack can be used.

These are missing meters, but appear to be complete except for that.. Anyone know what the meters were?

The meters look just like the ones in the R-390A and I would guess were removed by the army because of their radioactive, glow-in-the-dark material. One meter shows audio output and the other carrier level. This second one is necessary in order to properly tune an AM station.

And, what is one of these things worth?

I bought mine for \$50 from a friend, but it needed work. Had meters too. I would guess about \$100 is a fair price. I've also heard that at least one collector here in Greece would kill for one.

This is the absolute boatanchor! I bet it can hold an at least 35ft boat.

73

George SV0KA

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 14:52:21 1994
From: bill@rosevax.rosemount.com (William Hawkins)
Subject: Re: CV-157

Well, I don't have the book here, but I think the CV-157 was meant for extracting four RTTY signals from one transmitted signal. That may mean that it is useless for voice. Also, I think it is heavy because it contains a servomechanism for tuning.

I'd pay \$100 plus shipping to get a look at the servo.

Bill Hawkins

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 00:49:31 1994
From: "Terry O'Laughlin" <OLAUGHLIN@vilas.uwex.edu>
Subject: Re: CV-157

I have a CV-157, serial no. 3. It was designed for receiving ISB, like the VOA signal that pops up around 6700 kHz. I've used mine with an R-390A and a R-388. My favorite trick is to turn off the BFO in the CV-157 and hook a set of stereo headphones to it, upper to right, lower to left. The phase anomalies between the two AM sidebands induced by the ionosphere are readily apparent. Tuning the dial is also interesting. If nothing else it makes the CV-157 the only vacuum tube Kahn system AM stereo decoder ever manufactured.

I paid \$25 for mine from Amateur Electronic Supply when they had a basement cleaning sale just before they abandoned their old store on Fon du Lac in Milwaukee. It had a few bad tubes but it's in nice shape. It's not fun to move.

73s Terry O' WB9GVB

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 19:03:49 1994
From: staples@staples.lbl.gov (John Staples)
Subject: CV-157 for sale

Dear boatanchorites:

I've got a REAL boatanchor for you. A CV-157 receiving converter, in fair condition, pickup only, in Berkeley. \$100 firm (I've got \$150 in it). It works, but the motor-driven servo is sluggish. With documentation (copy). It's heavy.

John, W6BM
staples@lbl.gov
(510) 486-7732 (work)

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:30:48 1994
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: FAQ and other things...

I now have copies of the original and revised BoatAnchors FAQs - thanks to all.

Before delving too much further into this, John Brewer, are you still out there?

Excitement: I got my U.K. reciprocal license in the mail yesterday, and now have paperwork for both F/VE7LDH and G/VE7LDH. I'll be there in early September and intend looking at *lots* of Euro-style Boatanchors. My 2m handheld will fit in my luggage easily (still need to throw together a toneburst oscillator), but I want to see if I can make/buy/beg/borrow/steal something for HF to take with me...probably not a Boatanchor, alas.

73 from Burnaby,
laura VE7LDH, F/VE7LDH, G/VE7LDH, with a wallet full of money with people like Dickens and Faraday on the back, as well as money with people like Debussy and Saint-Exupery on it too...

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 17:35:47 1994
From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: Get It While You Can

Janis Joplin said it 25 years ago, and it's still true.

One of the Central Georgia boneyards Larry took me to is a place where surplus electrical, electronic and mechanical gear is broken up for scrap. They bust up entire chassis with a thing that looks like the guillotine from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base; the one they use to chop B-52s. A Vegamatic for boatanchors.

I couldn't bear to take photos of the inside: Piles and piles of pieces of scrap metal mixed with barely recognizable hunks of resistors and capacitors. Here's a chunk of waveguide; there's part of a 4X150.... All that crunching and smashing raises a mighty cloud of dust, so all the employees wear dust masks.

Outside, you see piles and piles of everything imaginable. Over in the corner I spotted a few pallets of Kleinschmidt TTY gear: line printers, tape punches and readers, cabinets. Next to them was a pile of R-390 SSB adaptors, less meters, just waiting for the coup de grace. Around back were a bunch of aircraft radios of some type, with waveguide fittings visible on the sides. Before long, it would be their turn to be scooped up by the bucket loader and dumped into the chopper.

I asked about buying some of the stuff, but I would have had to take an entire pallet full, and the prices were high. With the prices of metal going up, it's more cost effective to smash this stuff and sell it to the smelters than it is to try to market it intact. Let's face it: there aren't enough of us to sustain much of a market. If you see it, grab it, before it winds up "rendered" into little pieces! Next year's Toyota engine blocks might be made from the front panels of BC-348s.

73

Jim, KR1S

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 19:50:04 1994
From: "Marcotte, T F (T)" <TFMA@chevron.com>
Subject: Going Rate R-390/R-390A?

FROM: Marcotte, T F (Tom)
DATE: 08/12/94 14:09
TO: OPEN ADDRESSING SERVI-OPENADDR

CC:
SUBJECT: Going Rate R-390/R-390A?
PRIORITY:
ATTACHMENTS:

Gentlemen?

What is the going price for a Collins (name) R-390?

How 'bout R-390 "A" Collins (name)?

How 'bout either of a different make (EAC, SC, etc.) ?

Condition I had in mind is good-excellent with meters.

Comments???

Thanks,
Tom N50FF
tfma@chevron.com

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 20:59:49 1994
From: Nothing in moderation...! <brewer@anarky.enet.dec.com>
Subject: happy birthday to all of us.....

Jim's in a small town in Georgia..... hope he can hear us thinking
about him! This list was formed after about a 3 week discussion on
"Dixie 100" Heath rigs. Happy birthday!/john wb5oau

>From: KIMBOS::"nick@cs.unc.edu" "Nick England" 12-AUG-1994 09:40:58.97
To: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu
CC:
Subj: Birthday !!

Tomorrow is the 2nd anniversary of the founding of the boatanchors list.
Many thanks Jim Lockwood KM6NK wherever you are.....

=====
>From Jim.Lockwood@Eng Thu Aug 13 14:15:53 1992
To: boatanchors@acidqueen.Eng.Sun.COM
Subject: testing, testing....

I've put together an alias on my machine for those of us who have
been swapping info on DX100/TX1 class rigs this week. It consists
at present of:

250-<mal@cosmid.aplodbio.com>
250-<brewer@anarky.enet.dec.com>
250-<nick@sunpix.East.Sun.COM>
250 <zardo@rx-db.hf.intel.com>
250-Jim Lockwood <lockwood@acidqueen>

and can be reached/used by mailing to:
boatanchors@acidqueen.eng.sun.com

At the risk of actually having to maintain this alias instead of doing Real Work, I will probably announce its existence on the net and be willing to add folks to it as/if demand warrants.

Altho consisting of those of us with 100lb Heath transmitters at present, I have no interest in moderating this alias or restricting it to just that breed of rig. I'd rather see it be used for any discussion concerning any firebottle rigs.

73,
Jim - KM6NK

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:21:24 1994
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: Let's update the FAQ

Many moons ago there was a Boatanchors FAQ posted, and with the passage of time there are new goodies to fill in, and new questions that get asked frequently.

1. Is there anybody out there with a copy of the original FAQ? I have it on paper, and will type it in if I have to.
2. I hereby volunteer to be the custodian of the FAQ list. Once I have an on-line copy of the original we can kick it around and see what additions/changes/deletions are in order. I have reasonable outgoing Internet access (email, FTP, Gopher/Mosaic/etc.) but my incoming access is poor.

Some discussion of sweep tubes may be in order. Perhaps BA-relevant nets? Notes on MF/HF non-ham CW operation? Pointers to pictures and things?

73 from Burnaby,
laura VE7LDH

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 23:07:36 1994
From: "J. D. Delancy" <k1zat@bah.com>
Subject: Military Radio

Found on the USENET feed rec.radio.amateur.misc

This sounds like an ideal thing for KQ4BY....maybe even our BA rep from ARRL..

>From: lenwink@indirect.com (Len Winkler)
Newsgroups: rec.radio.amateur.misc
Subject: Military Radio
Date: Thu, 11 Aug 1994 09:03:58
Organization: Ham Radio & More
Lines: 9
Message-ID: <lenwink.160.0009113D@indirect.com>
NNTP-Posting-Host: s146.phxslip.indirect.com
X-Newsreader: Trumpet for Windows [Version 1.0 Rev A]

I'm looking for a guest to be on the Ham Radio & More show that is a military radio veteran that could discuss non-classified aspects of radio used in counterintelligence measures and other information gathering techniques. It would be most interesting to the average ham as well as to the non-ham. Please e'mail me if you can help or have a suggestion. Ham Radio & More is on the Talk America Network in over 20 cities and via satellite on Spacenet 3, Transponder 9, 6.8 audio each Sunday at 6:00pm EST.

73, Len, KB7LPW

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 18:32:51 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Military Stuff - For Sale

I have the following items to sell or trade:

ARC-58 Receiver Units. Very Good Condition. Some are still in the shelf pack. \$75 each or 3 for \$200.

T-437/APX-37. Fair Condition \$50 each or 3 for \$125.

618T-2 Transceivers. Fair condition, no power modules. I have been told that these have the filters needed to convert a PRC-47 to LSB. \$50 each or 3 for \$125.

RT-759/ARC-112. Fair Condition. \$60 each or 3 for \$150.

RT-736/ASQ-88. Fair Condition. \$60 each or 3 for \$150.

Bird 8135 "Coaxial Resistor" dummy load. Rated at 150 watts, 50 ohms. N-connector input. \$50.

Lambda 0-36V, 0-25A Power Supply, Fair condition. \$100.

Lambda 0-20V, 0-5.7A Power Supply, Poor condition (meters broken). \$75.

RT641B/ARC-90. Fair condition. \$60 each or 3 for \$150.

PP-112/GR Power Supply. Fair Condition. \$50.

KY-312/ASQ-19. Fair Condition. \$60 each or 3 for \$150.

TV-7/D and /U tube testers. Fair condition, missing covers and adapters, no manuals. \$40 each.

All items are used, not checked. I do not have any tech data on this stuff. Prices do not include shipping.

If you are interested, please e-mail me. Please include your zip code so that I can estimate the shipping.

73,

Larry, KQ4BY
lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 05:12:03 1994
From: Fire Bottle archive handler <firebotl@jackatak.raider.net>
Subject: Period modifications

> >How far should we go in modification of a set and still have a
> >vintage radio with some degree of authenticity to it?
I do not believe this is the relevant question to be addressed...
There appear to be two basic sub-groups, each with valid, albeit
differing points of view... as an "old hand", I'll try to keep the
perspective.

The two basic groups seem to be: a) those who would do anything to
preserve the apparent authenticity of a piece of gear (even though the
use of "modern" components to replace worn or malfunctioning parts is
somehow acceptable...but, I digress... ;^); and b) those who enjoy
most, the thrill and fun of tinkering with vintage gear. The pure
authentic isn't as important as the sense of involvement...

NO ricebox, especially those which can use a computer and win a
contest without the operator even being in the same state, can claim
human involvement. *THAT* is one of the great fascinations with the
vintage firebottle rigs... they all required an OPERATOR, a human to
make things happen...

> IMHO the period for "modernizing" anything is when it is just
> a little bit old.

Geologic timescale? ;^)

> After that "restoration" is in order and it should be made to work
> as well as it ever did with the original design.

As you say, that is your opinion, and I support your right to it...

> A period modification would be OK but it is hopeless to try and make
> vintage equipment work like the latest technology so why mess it up
> now.

WHOA!!!! You have just let your opinion get way beyond your understanding of the technologies. Have you not read Bob Keyes excellent postings on the performance possible from a proper Direct Conversion, or Regenerative receiver? Have you never used a fine tube receiver, unbothered by all the trash, hash, and synthesizer crap, to pull a weak one out where the super ricebox just heard its very own noise?

If you truly believe what you say, I feel sad for you, because you have missed a great deal... that is very much akin to thinking that Ladder-Line is some kind of "new" feedline, and that coax is the "standard"...

Laura's question, as to whether the List wisdom was that a gentle "period" modification to her HW-16 to permit VFO control of the transmitter would be acceptable and beneficial, GIVEN THAT SHE PLANS TO USE THE RIG AS A CW TRANSCEIVER. I believe the point was that it was a mod that Heath themselves might have included in the geneology of the rig were they to have pursued it further.

I have modified R-390A receivers to incorporate a product detector, and have reset them so that SSB reception was pleasant and useful. The receiver's value, TO ME, was increased severalfold, especially since it was coupled with an HT-32B Halli as a boatanchor station that was lots more fun to operate than any transceiver built in Japan. (I guess I should admit that I modified the Halli, too -- changed out the 7360 beam deflection tube for a 6JH8 which handled power better and was far less susceptible to microphonics, and I altered the audio coupling so that the fidelity was improved... sheesh! I was using the radios and enjoyed hte timkering, and the mods were good enough, in both cases to warrant other to install them as well...)

Were I running a museum, I'd perhaps think differently, but I wonder... would I cherish, as curator, a real plow that had tamed a homestead on the plains more than a NIB plow that had never seen dirt? I can't speak of the plow as an artform, but the homesteader's tool has history, life, and culture... the NIB version is a tad too sterile to be of interest...to me.

73,

Jack, W4PPT/Mobile (75M SSB 2-letter WAS #1657 -- all from the mobile! ;^)

Fire Bottle Server (Boat Anchors Get Out and Keep You Warm!)

firebot1@jackatak.raider.net

Where Old Radios and Fun ... GO TOGETHER!

+-----human interface: root@jackatak.raider.net -----+

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 14:50:57 1994

From: JosephWP@aol.com

Subject: Re: Period modifications

Jack,

Good to here from you. Was beginning to wonder about your absence.

I think that Laura's question expresses a real problem we all face (those of us you say who are collectors AND operators of vintages radios). How far should we go in modification of a set and still have a vintage radio with some degree of authenticity to it? After all, we are collectors and preservers of history, as well as operators of this wonderful stuff.

It is obvious, as you stated, that keeping the set working properly will often require component replacement. That's must be a given. But how far does one go with a modification? Do you really want to tear out the front end of a SX-28 and replace it with a 'modern' dual triode - I think that there are pros and cons on both sides. I don't have any hard and fast rules - in many ways one has to go with ones own focus in and enjoyment of the hobby.

But I always have to temper such feelings with the understanding that the radios I have, I have in trust, to hopefully be preserved and passed own to someone else (baring the stupidity of the present possessor and the ravages of time). I enjoy them immensely and that great delight in working on them (probably as much as operating them). But they are also a part of the history of radio which need to be passed on.

Sorry for the wanderings.

Joseph Pinner +

Lafayette, LA

KC5IJD

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 15:58:30 1994

From: "Mark Glusker" <glusk@mechcad3.esd.sgi.com>

Subject: Re: Period Modifications

I have a National NC-101X that is in fair condition. It appears to be complete and unmodified. My dilemma is that I would love it to be a SW-bands-only receiver instead of a ham-bands-only receiver, since my primary interest is SWL. To my knowledge, National never made a version of the HRO or NC-100-series that had SWBC bandspread.

My feeling is that mods are OK as long as they are reversible (i.e. no new holes in the chassis, no removing turns from coils, etc). I also believe that the whole point in having the radio is so that I can turn it on and listen to it.

Currently, the NC-101X sits unused in my office, poised to obliterate my 19-inch monitor in the event of an earthquake. I would appreciate any advice on some easily reversible mods that would allow me to use this radio for SWL.

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 11:28:36 1994
From: JosephWP@aol.com
Subject: Re: Period modifications

> >How far should we go in modification of a set and still have a
> >vintage radio with some degree of authenticity to it?
I do not believe this is the relevant question to be addressed...

Jack,

Ah, but it is part of the question, I think.

Like you, I modify my vintage gear. I have modified my R-390A for better SSB reception. In doing so I choose what seemed to me the most uninvasive mod (as well as a most effective one) I could find (Dallas Lankford's BFO/AGC mod).

On the other hand, I would not think of adding a product detector to my Hammarlund Comet Pro or modifying it in such ways. That, to me, would lessen it.

Perhaps they are two different 'types' of gear to me. One, the R-390A is a set that I use (with others). The Comet Pro is more of a collector's item (though I think of the R-390A that way, too, as it is a Collins unit S/N 7).

Joseph Pinner +
Lafayette, LA
KC5IJD

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:11:18 1994
From: "Roy Morgan" <morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov>
Subject: Re: Period modifications

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994 11:46:55 -0600,
Robert Neece <al511@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU> wrote:

>5. Then there are those who have a blend of motivations. The
> relative strength of the various motivations will change
> from one boatachor to the next, depending upon the personal
> history and sense of aesthetics of the beholder. Some of us
> have a tremendous romantic attachment to some BA's, but view
> others in altogether prosaic terms.

Bob,

I fall into this category, and have an attitude toward one receiver
that is an extension of the "blend":

The BC-454 "ARC-5" receiver I mail-ordered in about 1961 now has a
hallowed place in the collection. I modified it with the usual volume
control, BFO switch, 6AL5 noise limiter, and the like, and built a
small power supply. To me this thing with it's mods, installed by me
30+ years ago, has value as is, and I wouldn't back any mods out, or
put any more in.

Besides, that kid did good work in 1961 :-)

-- Roy --

Roy Morgan / Tech A-266 / NIST / Gaithersburg MD 20899
301-975-3254 Fax: 301-948-6213 Internet: morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:22:51 1994
From: klaudon@PICA.ARMY.MIL
Subject: Re: Period modifications

Jack, W4PPT, <firebotl@jackatak.raider.net> wrote :

>The two basic groups seem to be: a) those who would do anything to
>preserve the apparent authenticity of a piece of gear (even though the
>use of "modern" components to replace worn or malfunctioning parts is
>somehow acceptable...but, I digress... ;^); and b) those who enjoy
>most, the thrill and fun of tinkering with vintage gear. The pure
>authentic isn't as important as the sense of involvement...

>

>*NO* ricebox, especially those which can use a computer and win a
>contest without the operator even being in the same state, can claim
>human involvement. *THAT* is one of the great fascinations with the
>vintage firebottle rigs... they all required an OPERATOR, a human to
>make things happen...

You are surely correct, Jack! However, I would go one step further - not only does a boatanchor allow, and in some cases require, operator participation, but it also allows for owner modification/enhancement/customization/improvement! That was part of the fun of these rigs - it was a living piece of technology! That was partly the point of my satire regarding the R-390-on-a-chip emulator. Everything is literally engraved in stone (silicon) and you can't even SEE it, much less change it.

The modern day ricebox begs, nay demands, that you mind your own business, and keep your big greasy paws off of it. Even removing screws from the metal-look plastic cabinets can be unnerving (are you voiding the warrantee, and oh-please-G-d I hope these screws are not just sunk into plastic so they can never be retightened!). Of course, we do it anyway. But you get the clear message that Kenbark/Icon/Yahoo is telling you, "If this rig breaks, or dosen't do exactly what you want, throw it away and spend even more money on a new one! Have a nice day, yankee!".

No anti-Asian slurs intended. It's that way with ALL modern digital stuff.

>If you truly believe what you say, I feel sad for you, because you
>have missed a great deal... that is very much akin to thinking that
>Ladder-Line is some kind of "new" feedline, and that coax is the
>"standard"...

I thought that ham coax was a new, stronger version of TV coax, brought out by Radio Shlock to supply the new demand created by the new no-code license! But seriously, I'm glad to see that this new-fangled method of buying your own UHF connectors, and soldering them on, is dying out. The old-fashioned, factory-crimped connectors on standard lengths of RG-58 cable is a MUCH better idea. See your RS store for details. Not all lengths available in all locations. :-)

>Laura's question, as to whether the List wisdom was that a gentle
>"period" modification to her HW-16 to permit VFO control of the
>transmitter would be acceptable and beneficial, GIVEN THAT SHE PLANS
>TO USE THE RIG AS A CW TRANSCEIVER. I believe the point was that it
>was a mod that Heath themselves might have included in the geneology
>of the rig were they to have pursued it further.

I don't think that "acceptable and beneficial" is even an issue. It's her rig, and it's a hobby. As I said before, go for it! I am sure

the result will be delightful!

>

>Were I running a museum, I'd perhaps think differently, but I
>wonder... would I cherish, as curator, a real plow that had tamed a
>homestead on the plains more than a NIB plow that had never seen dirt?
>I can't speak of the plow as an artform, but the homesteader's tool
>has history, life, and culture... the NIB version is a tad too sterile
>to be of interest...to me.

The NIB plow would certainly be far more rare, and thereby, "valuable". However, I think that BOTH plows are of interest. I experience two separate, but related, fantasies with regard to these things. One fantasy is imagining that used, worn plow (but cleaned up for museum display) cutting through the local soil of 100 years ago, pulled by a mule. The soil, of course, is under the current day high-rise in the center of the city. The second fantasy is that of the farmer, standing in the feed store with his wife and kids, all dressed up in their best clothes, wagon waiting outside, ready to take delivery of their beautiful shiny new implement, that will increase their income and improve their lives. They have been saving for it for 5 years or more. Pride of ownership! The early-day seeds of American consumerism.

Part of what I enjoy about boatanchors is remembering drooling over them in stores, and in catalogs, when they were shiny and new for sale!

Fun!

73 - I am really enjoying this particular discussion!

Kalman WD6CZI kladon@pica.army.mil

From ab4e1.com Fri Aug 12 15:06:37 1994

From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>

Subject: Re: Period modifications

Bob Neece points out several reasons why someone might want to maintain a boatanchor in its original condition. It seems there are more than one reason why people are attracted to vintage gear. Some owners are into the historical aspects of the equipment. Such owners will preserve the appearance and parts complement of their equipment, which will be greatly appreciated by future historians trying to figure out where we were technologically at various times.

I enjoy using [some] boatanchors because I get burned out on Windows and an endless stream of the latest equipment etc at work (eat your hearts out!), and I like to use equipment at home that requires a little operator input.

Further, I can visualize what's happening inside a firebottle, but not what's happening inside a hunk of silicon.

If I have to replace a vintage component with a modern version, I don't mind, if it helps keep the rig running.

A lot depends on how rare an item is, I think. There are enough R-390s around that making a few mods really doesn't significantly reduce the stock of unmodified units. If I had an unusual piece of gear, I might be reluctant to modify it.

There's a tradeoff between safety and modernity in some rigs, too. If I had to keep a rig original, I might not use it at all. Aside from the safety issue of leaky line bypass caps, there's the possibility of destroying an irreplaceable component. At some point, you just have to put them on the shelf and admire the esthetics of their packaging, something that is getting increasingly harder to do with modern gear.

73

Jim, KR1S

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:22:25 1994
From: al511@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Robert Neece)
Subject: Re: Period modifications

Jack, W4PPT, often brings out the cultural anthropologist in me.

He observes that:

>The two basic groups seem to be: a) those who would do anything to
>preserve the apparent authenticity of a piece of gear (even though the
>use of "modern" components to replace worn or malfunctioning parts is
>somehow acceptable...but, I digress... ;^); and b) those who enjoy
>most, the thrill and fun of tinkering with vintage gear. The pure
>authentic isn't as important as the sense of involvement...

I am curious as to what would cause an individual to fall into the "purist" category rather than the "tinkerer" category.

Here's some conjecture:

1. Some purists wish to be faithful to the "Golden Rule."
Each of us has seen a piece of vintage gear that was butchered by a previous owner. This might stimulate a sense that one should do to his own gear no more than what

he would have been content to have had a previous owners do to the item. This group of individuals have a keen awareness of the passage of ownership over time. Because they prefer the gear that they obtain to be in "original" condition, they (wanting to be good citizens) are inhibited from doing anything that would prevent them from being able to pass the gear along to the next guy or gal in similar condition.

2. Some purists are obsessed with virginity. They insist upon receiving a virgin, but are not equally concerned with leaving a virgin for the next person.
3. Some purists focus upon preservation of market value. When they contemplate an alteration to an item, their focus is upon the impact that such action might have upon resale value.
4. Some purists focus upon the prestige of owning an item. They contemplate the effect that a mod might have upon the status one might derive from ownership. In this aspect, perhaps a boatanchor might be analogized to a work of art. Who would prefer to own a van Gogh or a Matisse that had been "improved" by a hack? On the other hand, Mozart took works originated by hacks and modified them to become masterpieces. In this instance, a willingness to perform a mod might turn on the skill of the modifier as measured against the skill of the manufacturer. Is art an absolute concept or, rather, one that is derived primarily from its relationship to the artist?
5. Then there are those who have a blend of motivations. The relative strength of the various motivations will change from one boatanchor to the next, depending upon the personal history and sense of aesthetics of the beholder. Some of us have a tremendous romantic attachment to some BA's, but view others in altogether prosaic terms.

As I say, Jack comes up with stimulating notions.

>*NO* ricebox, especially those which can use a computer and win a
>contest without the operator even being in the same state, can claim
>human involvement.

Jack must be referring to involvement with the internal technology of the equipment. I am afraid that Jack is correct about many ricebox users. They (a) don't know what goes on inside the box, (b) don't care what goes on inside, (c) even if they did care, they wouldn't know

what to do about it, or indeed be able to do anything about it, or (d) all of the above. On the other hand, many gung-ho contest types delve pretty deeply into the functioning of their riceboxes, and conceive and execute such excellent mods that the manufacturer incorporates them into the next generation of ricebox. That process is not one that was typical of Hammarlund, National, Collins, and so on.

And, Jack, aren't you waxing a bit polemical in suggesting that contests are run by computers? Man, the frenetic involvement of the best contest ops is amazing to behold, even if one despises the activity. These guys are anything but passive. Their passion and involvement is at 10 on a scale of 10.

>Have you never used a fine tube
>receiver, unbothered by all the trash, hash, and synthesizer crap, to
>pull a weak one out where the super ricebox just heard its very own
>noise?

Some of the latest, best synthesizers are pretty darn quite and free of "crap."

>I should admit that I modified the Halli, too -- changed out the 7360
>beam deflection tube for a 6JH8 which handled power better and was far
>less susceptible to microphonics

Just curious, Jack, but why is microphonics an issue in a beam-deflection modulator circuit? Was there a feedback problem? I understand microphonics relative to VFO's and the like, but my HT-32B didn't have a problem in

My bottom line? One ought to be able to love BA's without needing to denigrate modern technology. Each can be admired for its own virtues without denying the virtues of other gear.

--

73 de Bob, K0KR

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:38:19 1994

From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)

Subject: Re: Period modifications

>
> Fun!
>
> 73 - I am really enjoying this particular discussion!
>

Now that you got the group warmed up.. And, since I have had my usual Friday lunch down at Miss Kandy McKuen's, I figure that it is time to add my .02 yankee dollars worth.

My personal belief is that you don't really own a radio until you work on it. So, most of my boatanchor fun is tinkering. I haven't done any serious modifications, lately.. But, you may remember that I am the guy who is contemplating the replacement of the sweep tube finals in all my Drake rigs. I may get around to that, yet.

My shack ain't no museum! I actually try to use this stuff. So, if I find something that will make it safer or operate better, then you will probably find me out by the bench, cussing and burning my fingers. When I am done, I will puff out my chest as I explain to my patient XYL that I have just transformed a good rig into an excellent rig by my clever modification or by an innovative parts substitution. And, my next 50 QSO's will contain at least one reference to the modification along with a graphic description of the improvement in performance!

I also try to remember that design engineers had one constraint that I don't worry about -- cost! Upgrading one rig is a whole lot different >from adding that upgrade to thousands of units on the assembly line. So, I try to view some of my modifications as design changes that the engineer would have liked to put in, if he could convince the marketing guy and management of the need for them.

I don't like sloppy mods. I especially do not like undocumented mods, such as I have in my recently-acquired SP-600. But, a neat, documented modification that adds functionality or improves performance would not stop me from buying a rig. In fact, if I meet you in the next Bone Yard with a rig (that I want) for sale, and you can show me a modification and explain what it is and what it does, I probably would like that rig better than the one I would find at Joe's Equipment Barn.

As with all good things, there are limits. But, most of us are smart enough to know when we cross the line from modification to wilddcatting. We have all seen the results of too many modifications and too much experimentation. We generally call them "parts rigs."

So, I am going to keep tinkering with my stuff and modifying it, if I find something that needs improvement... When I find something that is so rare or pristine that I hesitate to take a soldering iron to it, then I am going to put it on the shelf and admire it...

73,

Larry, KQ4BY

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 18:45:03 1994
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: Period modifications

I don't think my comments on this made it to the list; apologies if they did.

I was drawing some parallels with antique cars, which are much more publicly visible.

Some people collect antique cars and restore them to showroom-perfect condition. (No fair just buying a new car and mothballing it for 50 years.) There are competitions where they are judged on the quality and accuracy of the restoration. They wouldn't think of actually driving one of these cars; that would detract from its value.

Some people collect antique cars and restore them, and then they drive them to gatherings and contests and such. So I suppose they too are judged on the quality of the restoration, but the aim is more to experience driving the old machine as if it were new. Still, few if any of them would drive such a car to work every day; the cars are still showpieces more than they are transportation.

There was a time when kids got old cars and modified them into hotrods. They were cheap at the time. They couldn't do this today with the same models because they are too rare and expensive. But the modified cars took on a set of values of their own; so today there are probably collectors and restorers of antique hotrod-modified antique cars. And there are hotrod-modified antique cars that are more for show than for racing, if they get raced at all.

And then there are people like me who drive a 26 year old car, never restored, and it looks it.

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 19:13:17 1994
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: Period modifications

>From lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil Fri Aug 12 10:56:25 1994
Date: Fri, 12 Aug 94 13:56:25 -0400
>From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Re: Period modifications
To: klaudon@PICA.ARMY.MIL
Cc: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu
X-Orig-Date: Fri, 12 Aug 94 11:47:04 EDT
X-Orig-From: klaudon@PICA.ARMY.MIL
X-Orig-Message-Id: <9408121547.AA16197@batdd6.batdd1.pica.army.mil>

>My personal belief is that you don't really own a radio until you work
>on it. So, most of my boatanchor fun is tinkering. I haven't done

Otherwise known as "break the seals, void the guarantee"

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 15:25:05 1994

From: al511@freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Robert Neece)

Subject: Period modifications; 75A-4

In a private e-mail to me concerning period modifications,
Jim Haynes wrote:

>I think we might look for parallels in automobile hobbies, something
>that's much more visible to the public than ham radio is. At one time
>there were the '30s roadsters converted to hotrods because their young
>owners bought them cheap and modified them to be what they wanted for
>their use. Now today there are few of those old cars available, certainly
>not cheaply. Some people who own them lovingly restore them to showroom
>condition, and take them to contests where they are judged on the accuracy
>of the restoration. Other people "restore" them to show-grade hotrod
>condition; that is, they are to be looked at rather than raced, and again
>they enter them into competitions where they are judged on how spiffy they
>look. Then there are probably some of the converted ones still be traded
>and raced, and there might even be some of the original ones still being
>driven. There are no doubt some restored ones being driven by antique-car
>buffs; and here's there's a conflict between having the experience of
>driving the thing and having it in showroom condition.

Jim is right on the money. Just look at the dazzling variety of approaches
he has identified. It is almost like religion. The zealots insist
that their faith is the only true way. Other folks
adopt a more pluralistic attitude. Jim, this is fun!

>I recall some articles from QST or somewhere about how
>the right way to build a receiver was to use a 7360 in the front end.

There was a classic series of articles, although perhaps they were in
CQ, about using one of these then-new-fangled tubes in the front end
of the Collins 75A-4. In fact, a whole culture dedicated to the
improvement and perfection of the 75A-4 came into being and lasted for
quite some time. During this era, a "perfected" 75A-4 was widely
considered the ultimate piece of ham gear.

My own 75A-4 (serial number in the 2300's) is a virgin. But, I
would love also to own one upon which a really elegant set of
aftermarket upgrades had been performed.

--

73 de Bob, K0KR

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:00:56 1994
From: CHRIS _ PRUSSING <RMCP@tundra.alaska.edu>
Subject: Period Mods/Hammarlund NL Help

Fellow Restorers/Ops-

Recently my Hammarlust was sated by acquiring an HQ-120X, long sought. It has several internal mods (circuit, circa 1950s QST variety). This is one of the great pre-war BAs to begin with. I'm happy with the evolution previous caring owners have followed with one possible exception: the original noise limiter 6Z7 and detector/first audio 6F8 have been replaced by a 6T8.

Short digression: both the HQ-120X and other contemporaneous late '30s rigs (Hallicrafters SX-17 for example) have had production changes from amplified (Dickert?) ANL to simpler diode (6H6) pulse type. Why? Has anyone compared the early and late production ANL performance (main problem here is power line QRM) of these or similar receivers? And can anyone come up with any documentation (from QST or other articles used in making mod) of these circuit mods?

Too bad Ric Ferranti is off-list at present as he is an HQ-120 fan.
Jim Dillon RMCP@Tundra.Alaska.Edu

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 18:54:14 1994
From: rduflon@cup.portal.com
Subject: Q&D Type N Interconnects (was CU-168 Antenna Coupler)

If you're lucky enough to own a quality piece of radio equipment or test gear that has Type N connectors, you might consider the following before spending a bunch of money on adapters or modifying the unit.

If the outer locking ring of a male BNC is removed it will interface nicely with a female Type N. If I recall correctly, the BNC came first and the "N" was a weatherproof version designed by the Navy. Anyway, the locking ring can be cut with a hacksaw or even cut and peeled back with a strong set of sidecutters. The resulting "quick connection" has good retention due to the split shield ring.

Disclaimer: Don't cut your fingers, don't fry your finals after accidentally pulling off a connector, etc. Hey, it's a hack!

Ray
rduflon@cup.portal.com

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 12:18:22 1994
From: Clark Fishman (FSAC-FCD) <cfishman@PICA.ARMY.MIL>
Subject: R390

Anybody out there know the frequency range of the PTO in the R390?

WA2UNN

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 16:05:51 1994
From: Fire Bottle archive handler <firebotl@jackatak.raider.net>
Subject: R390

> Anybody out there know the frequency range of the PTO in the R390?
Sure.... 1,000 Kc ;^)

I couldn't help myself.... it traverses 1 Mc very linearly, and with the help of all those wonderous tuned slugs, the whole radio traverses 1 Meg at a time, also very linearly...

Given that it is a triple conversion receiver, do you really mean the lower and upper frequency range of the output???

73,

Jack, W4PPT/Mobile (75M SSB 2-letter WAS #1657 -- all from the mobile! ;^)

Fire Bottle Server (Boat Anchors Get Out and Keep You Warm!)

firebotl@jackatak.raider.net

Where Old Radios and Fun ... GO TOGETHER!

+-----human interface: root@jackatak.raider.net -----+

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 19:03:22 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Re: R390

In your message of 11 Aug 1994 at 1153 EDT, you write:

> Anybody out there know the frequency range of the PTO in the R390?

>

> WA2UNN

>

Since I just happened to have a 390A manual handy, I can tell you that "The frequency range of V701 is precisely 3.455 to 2.455 mc."

Do the 390 and 390A use the same VFO circuit? Don't know...

73,

Larry, KQ4BY

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 15:06:56 1994
From: bill@rosevax.rosemount.com (William Hawkins)
Subject: Re: R390

>Since I just happened to have a 390A manual handy, I can tell you
>that "The frequency range of V701 is precisely 3.455 to 2.455 mc."
>
>Do the 390 and 390A use the same VFO circuit? Don't know...
>
>73,
>
>Larry, KQ4BY

I have TM-11-5820-357-35 beside me, for the R-390, and it's completely different. On page 12, it states "The frequency range is from 2.455 to 3.455 kc." Looks like the 390 is the complex conjugate of the 390A. :-) :-)

Bill Hawkins

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 15:02:13 1994
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: Re. CU-168 Coupler

to: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu

Hello David, KE6BWJ

The gentleman with the antenna couplers is

Mr. Lowell Thomas
PO Box 15026
Fresno, CA 93702-5026
(209) 227-1605

He's asking \$25 each, plus shipping costs. They weigh about 45 - 50 pounds, so in my case shipping approximately doubled the cost, but it's STILL worth it as far as I'm concerned, and it's still cheaper than Fair Radio!

73's,

Mr. T., K9TA

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 16:28:08 1994
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: Re: Re[2]: Period modifications

in which bill@rosevax.rosemount.com sez:

>To reiterate a tip from a local museum curator - if you modify something,
>keep the parts you remove in a plastic bag with the radio. F'rinstance if
>you recap a set. The old parts will help a future curator establish the
>lineage of the set.

It's time to put in another plug for my organization, "Friends of the Archaeologists" Our credo is that before sending any contrivance to the dump we promise to attach a plastic bag containing a card on which we write what the thing is and how it was used and whatever else we know about it. Thus when some archaeologists dig it up 1000 years from now they won't have to make absurd guesses.

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 17:17:35 1994
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Re: Re: Re[2]: Period modifications

in which bill@rosevax.rosemount.com sez:

>To reiterate a tip from a local museum curator - if you modify something,
>keep the parts you remove in a plastic bag with the radio. F'rinstance if
>you recap a set. The old parts will help a future curator establish the
>lineage of the set.

It's time to put in another plug for my organization, "Friends of the Archaeologists" Our credo is that before sending any contrivance to the dump we promise to attach a plastic bag containing a card on which we write what the thing is and how it was used and whatever else we know about it. Thus when some archaeologists dig it up 1000 years from now they won't have to make absurd guesses.

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 16:42:50 1994
From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)
Subject: Regarding for-sale and maybe wanted items

I'd like it if people posting for-sale things would say approximately where they are. Sometimes there is a phone number that narrows it down to area code; usually there is a call sign, but these days you can't be sure a W2 isn't really in the middle of Nebraska. There have been several items where I thought "if this is nearby I could go over and look at it and maybe bring it home with me; but if it has to be shipped I probably don't want it."

From ab4e1.com Thu Aug 11 19:11:51 1994
From: "Skelton, Tom" <TSkelton@engineer.clemsonsc.NCR.COM>
Subject: RE: Regarding for-sale and maybe wanted items

>From: owner-boatanchors
To: boatanchors
Subject: Regarding for-sale and maybe wanted items
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 1994 11:07AM

I'd like it if people posting for-sale things would say approximately where they are.

No to be critical, but "I'd like it if people" would include their call and email address at the end of a posting. Many users such as myself don't have a mailer interface that allows the poster to be ID'ed. This info is stripped off. This is the price of progress??

Thanks guys and gals. Not a complaint -- just a suggestion.

73, Tom WB4iUX (Tom.Skelton@ClemsonSC.NCR.COM)

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 20:02:21 1994
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: Re[2]: Period modifications

Some interesting ideas...my take on this is that a sensitively applied modification, in line with the original design aims of the radio, is probably fair game. Especially if it's not overly invasive, easily reversed if need be, and makes the radio that much more useful - the HW-16 VFO mod requires cutting a couple of traces on the PC board; I will **not** drill holes in the front panel to mount a receiver incremental tuning control.

This sounds like something Heath might have done if they were still making the HW-16 when Novices were freed from their rocks...

An aside: until quite recently, radios weren't measured for things like 3rd order IMD. But the tube front ends in our BoatAnchors tend to do extremely well in this department, and the best IMD numbers I've ever seen were from a mixer based on a matched pair of 807s. My HW-16 has no difficulty receiving signals while transmitting out the same antenna, even with the QSK circuit inoperative. Signals don't get much stronger than that. :-)

73 from Burnaby,
laura VE7LDH

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 00:30:51 1994
From: "Kenan, Larry" <larryk@frick.sandiegoca.NCR.COM>
Subject: Re[2]: Period modifications

>How far should we go in modification of a set and still have a vintage radio
>with some degree of authenticity to it?

IMHO the period for "modernizing" anything is when it is just a little bit old.
After that "restoration" is in order and it should be made to work as well as it
ever did with the original design.

A period modification would be OK but it is hopeless to try and make vintage
equipment work like the latest technology so why mess it up now.

Larry Kenan - KD6CKR

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 02:43:13 1994
From: bill@rosevax.rosemount.com (William Hawkins)
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Period modifications

To reiterate a tip from a local museum curator - if you modify something,
keep the parts you remove in a plastic bag with the radio. F'rinstance if
you recap a set. The old parts will help a future curator establish the
lineage of the set.

Bill Hawkins - IJL (I just listen (and not much of that))

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 12:25:16 1994
From: "Roy Morgan" <morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov>
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Period modifications

On Tue, 09 Aug 94 15:35:26 pst,
Kenan, Larry <larryk@frick.sandiegoca.NCR.COM> wrote:

>A period modification would be OK but it is hopeless to try and make vintage
>equipment work like the latest technology so why mess it up now.

Yesterday I sat in front of a Watkins-Johnson R-1000 receiver. (I
noticed the price had been reduced from \$3995 to \$3795. The tag
exhorted me to SAVE \$200!) It sounded fine.

Last night I used my R-390. It sounded fine. The R-390 cost me \$40.
I saved \$3755.

No, they're not the same, but I like tubes!

-- Roy --

Roy Morgan / Tech A-266 / NIST / Gaithersburg MD 20899
301-975-3254 Fax: 301-948-6213 Internet: morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 12:35:36 1994
From: klaudon@PICA.ARMY.MIL
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Period modifications

Another comment from the peanut gallery :

Ooo! Ooo! To be bashed as a "museum collector" really hurt! Well, I am not really a museum collector, or much of any kind of collector for that matter - lack of real estate, lack of money, lack of time, existence of XYL :), etc.

Just to set the record straight. However, I do feel there are merits to both sides of the argument. I personally do not feel there is any problem with restoring a boatanchor rig with modern components. You don't have to search the 4 corners of the globe to find a vintage, NIB (but somehow stored in a time capsule so the component has not degraded - hard for electrolytic caps!) component. I am comfortable with using nice new, clean modern components for restoration/repair purposes.

If it isn't seen from the front panel, and can be made to fit in the same spot as the original, I don't think that this should detract from the rig's "original" classification.

There are mods, and there are mods. Varying existing component values to improve audio response, p/s filtering, seems fine, especially if you are going to really operate the rig regularly. Changes in components in order to use a better version of the same tube (perhaps with better ratings) seems to be pretty safe, too. Going from a tube rectifier to silicon is a bit more severe, but still not too radical.

These are the kind of mods which do not change the basic operation of the rig, and do not add or change any of the functionality. Of course, one can go to the extreme, and gut the rig, leaving nothing but the front panel controls, driving a single-chip HRO-60 emulator, with the vernier drive removed, driving a shaft encoder, and circuitry to sense which coil set has been inserted (the coil set is not used; it just enables the correct range in the HRO-on-a-chip).

HOWEVER..., the HW-16 mod we are discussing here, namely, to add a VFO (the "transmit" is implied; having a VFO in those days MEANT that you could vary the xmit freq, the rcvr was not an issue) to a novice xcvr, is a significant addition to the functionality of the rig! And as Laura mentioned, it will involve cutting traces on the PCB, and I would suppose, some additional mixing circuitry as well. Despite the fact that this may be a "period" mod, I had never heard of it, FWIW.

I just wanted to air my last gasp on the issue!

Be careful with those old Heath PC boards, Laura. They are of poor quality and can easily self-destruct, crack, burn, etc. when they get old. Other than that, go for it, have fun, and I sure would love to see the result when you finish! Good luck!

73, Kalman WD6CZI

K: "Hello, Fair Radio? I would like to order an R-390 receiver, please!"

FR: "Would you like the analog or digital emulator model, Sir?"

K: "I want both. I am a collector, but I also like to operate them!"

FR: "Fine! The original analog version is \$ 600 fully tested and calibrated, plus \$ 105 shipping. Shipping weight is 125 lbs. and takes 4 weeks minimum to arrive by motor freight".

K: "Boy, I can't wait! What about the digital version?"

FR: "That model is \$ 110, which includes a 5 yr warranty on the chip. We don't offer a calibration service because the chip has no hardware adjustments, and all of the ones we have tested have all exceeded the original R-390 specs anyway! Shipping weight is 18 lbs. \$ 6.50 parcel post will have it at your door in 3 to 5 days."

K: "Do I also have to buy the special power cord, like the analog version?"

FR: "No, it comes with it's own 12VDC, 800ma wall cube. Most of that is for dial lamps and audio."

K: "How much is the manual for this version?"

FR: "It's included! The unit has an RS-232c port inside, and there's lots of room to feed a cable in thru the rear air vents, which this version doesn't need, anyway. No one will see the computer interface, and aesthetics are unaffected! The firmware contains the entire set of mil operation and maintenance manuals, plus 450 page development study, all ER articles on the rig, Supermorse, Ham callbook, and Solitaire!"

K: "Wow, what a bargain! But I'm confused. I see in your catalog that spare cabinets for the R-390, either version, are \$ 120, while the digital version, including cabinet, is only \$ 110! What gives?"

FR: "Well, I'm really not supposed to tell you this, but we actually buy the digital R-390 as a package, from a supplier in PR China. They buy up all the R-390 chassis they can find, clean them up, and install the digital chip assembly that they manufacture themselves! We can't get cabinets and clean them up in-house for what they sell us the entire unit for, wholesale! So when a customer wants to order

just the cabinet, we have to remove the digital assembly. That's why the empty cabinet costs 10 bucks more. Everybody wins!"
K: "Good old Yankee ingenuity! Makes me proud to be an American!"
FR: "Will that be on your Visa or Discover Card, Sir?"

...-.- ..

From ab4e1.com Fri Aug 12 15:01:41 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Scott Johnson, pls read

Scott,

My mail to you bounces when I answer you message.. Please send e-mail address...

Sorry for the bandwidth, folks..

73,

Larry, KQ4BY
lakeith@robins.af.mil

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 13:59:55 1994
From: Schroeder.Wbst207V@xerox.com
Subject: Signal Generator for Sale

Hollowstaters,

FOR SALE:

TS-497/UUR Signal Generator. 2 to 400 Mhz in 6 bands. Output level 0.1 to 100,000 microvolts, continuously variable [inductively coupled, no Bolometer i.e. Model 80), impedance 50 ohms. 0 - 30% modulation at 400 Hz, 1000 Hz or ext input. With manual (copy). Checked for operation, probably needs calibration (I am unable to verify actual output level) \$50 + shipping (approx 65 pounds).

Thanks,

Russ W2DYY

Schroeder.Wbst207V@Xerox.com

From ab4e1.com Wed Aug 10 03:12:38 1994
From: dmcintyr@acs.ucalgary.ca
Subject: Test Equipment, Books (BA related)

Boatanchorites:

Over the past several months there have been many discussions about test equipment used in BA servicing, and also discussion about various printed reference works that are useful to have around when working with boatanchors. I had the idea of putting together a list of such items, which might be useful as a mini-FAQ to people new at this game. I am sure that many of you will be able to expand on this considerably, your input is appreciated.

Test equipment for working on Boatanchors:

[This list is in no particular order, I have tried to list the most useful items first]

[CAUTION- Boatanchors, like other tube (valve) equipment, uses high voltages that can be dangerous to the inexperienced. If in doubt, get the advice of a more experienced person, or at the very least do yourself a favour and read the sections dealing with safety in the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) Radio Amateur's Handbook.]

Variac or other variable autotransformer. Typically, these allow one to adjust the line voltage from zero to about 20% above the normal line voltage. Useful when powering up boatanchors with questionable filter caps, or any rig that has been unused in years.

Isolation transformer for working on transformerless boatanchors or "all American five" radios. Otherwise the chassis of such rigs may well be "hot". Note that a Variac is an autotransformer and cannot be used by itself as an isolation transformer.

VOM or VTVM (Vacuum-tube voltmeter) for measuring voltages, resistance and current. Should read to 1000 VDC at least, note that many modern digital meters are limited to 600 VDC or even less

Frequency generator for aligning receivers, etc

Tube tester (mutual transconductance type preferred, emission type will do if necessary)

Capacitor bridge for checking those questionable caps. Remember to discharge the cap before testing/handling!

Grid-Dip Meter for checking the frequency of tuned circuits. Can also be used as a signal generator.

Oscilloscope for checking waveforms and the like.

Reference books useful to have around:

ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook. A must. Older (<1970) editions perhaps the most useful as far as boatanchors are concerned, they also have more extensive tube tables and lots of mouth-watering ads from Collins Hammerlund National etc in the back that are fun to browse through.

RCA (or GE, etc) Receiving Tube, and Transmitting Tube Manuals

RCA Radiotron Designer's Handbook (1953 edition perhaps the best)

Communication Receivers, by Moore

Radio Engineering, by Terman

Old issues of QST

Trouble Shooting by Signal Tracing, by Rider (1939-even includes a section on television and a section on the FAX equipment of the day)

Interesting Historical Books :

Saga of the Vacuum Tube, by Tyne. Covers the period up to 1930.

200 metres and down, by DeSoto (1936, published by ARRL, still availavle from the League in reprint form. Early history of ham radio).

Any additions to this list would be appriciated!

73, Deane
dmcintyr@acs.ucalgary.ca

VE6BP0

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 11:32:03 1994
From: lakeith@wrdis01.robins.af.mil (Larry CONTRACTOR Keith Mr.)
Subject: Re: Test Equipment, Books (BA related)

> Any additions to this list would be appriciated!

>

Current magazines: Electric Radio...

73,

Larry

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 14:03:36 1994
From: "Jack Mor" <usr8563a@TSO.UC.EDU>
Subject: Re: TV interference on the 19m

>I purchased a new RCA 25" color TV, the set is RCA model F25652BL
>manufactured July 1994. This set is generating very large amount
>of interference on the 19m bend, between 14.700 and 15.800.
>The TV set is located in the room that is right under my long wire antenna,
>the antenna is in the attic, and this interference kills any chances of
>DX'ing any week signals in the 19m bend.

Folks,

I would like to thank all of you that helped me with the RI interference problems that the new TV set was generating, the set is equipped with a CPU for remote control and closed captioning functions and RCA did a woeful job, IMHO no job at all, eliminating RI noise from this TV set.

Bob (K0KR) wrote:

>First, observe the amplitude of
>the interference on 19m with the TV antenna (or cable) connected
>to the TV set. Next, disconnect the antenna from the TV set.
>If the amplitude of the interference diminishes when you
>disconnect the antenna, I may have a solution for you.

Bob, you were right, the RI amplitude dropped by 50% when I disconnected the cable from the back of the TV set.

>This technique has helped me to solve "dirty" television
>set problems in several circumstances. And, as I recall, the
>Radio Shack filter costs something like \$1.99. It is an
>amazingly good filter for two bucks.

Bob, you were right again, the Radio Shack filter removed 50% of the RI, additionally to be on the safe side, I installed a choke on the power cord at the TV set, this reduced the remaining RI by additional 50%; presently I am satisfied with the RI reduction effort.

Bob, by the way FYI the price of the Radio Shack filter is \$4.95, the choke cost \$5.95 I guess that this is the price of progress.

Jack.
jackmor@tso.uc.edu

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 13:23:13 1994

From: "Kearman, Jim, KR1S" <jkearman@arrl.org>
Subject: TV-4A/U Tube Tester

Readers of Electric Radio may recall Walt Hutchens' mention of this item in the July 1994 issue. He said he'd only seen two, and that he didn't think any had ever been released to surplus sales. If Walt's only seen two, it's probably unusual enough to be called rare.

I'm offering one for sale. This TV-4A/U was made in 1952, and comes with the tube data book. It's a pretty simple tester, probably only measuring emission. You set the parameters with a few knobs and a bunch of toggle switches. It's about half the size of a jumbo loaf of bread. Controls and meter are on one edge, tube sockets are on another. It runs from 110 VAC. It's painted in lovely two-tone brown. The case is clean with no corrosion, dents, etc.

There are plenty of tube testers around that will do a better job of measuring tube performance than this one. Although an inspection of the inside revealed no signs of damage, I consider this a collectible and am not going to plug it in. Buy it, put it on the shelf and appreciate it.

Asking \$150 + UPS shipping.

Jim Kearman
jkearman@arrl.org

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 21:28:31 1994
From: Bill.Cohn@precision.chigate.com (Bill Cohn)
Subject: Re: Valve tape recorder..

Subject: Re: Valve tape recorder..

#####Haynes@cats.Ucsc.Edu (jim Haynes)refer#: None
wrote:

###From: haynes@cats.ucsc.edu (Jim Haynes)

###-0700

###Date: Mon, 8 Aug 1994 14:00:09 -0700

###

###Which reminds me - I've got enough parts of two Akai vacuum tube tape
###recorders to make one that works, probably. Haven't seen any model number
###Do some of you with Photofact indices have a handle on this item? Somebod
###told me it's probably like the Roberts machine, which in turn was a copy
###(in some sense) of the Ampex 600 series machine.

###

#####

I collect tape recorders and I have Sam's TR series to 1973. It lists the Akai M4, M5, and M7. These are tube type machines sold in the US under the Roberts name around 1964 till 1967. They also made it back with GIs during the early 70's as Akai machines. If that is what you have I can send you schematics. They are rice box copies of an Ampex 600. They were never as good. These units had crossfield heads for better high frequency response but they were only two head machines, no tape monitoring ability. They are the same as the Roberts 770 and 990.

73 de N9MHT Bill

```
# TLX v4.00 # Join the Antique Radio Club of Illinois
;Simple help instructions for fileserv via a GIGO gateway..
; ASCII                Forces ASCII dump (ie text,etc)
; BINARY               Forces UUENCODED binary files (autosplit)
; DETECT               Autodetects ASCII/BINARY
; GET filename.ext     gets a single file
; GET filename.        gets anything starting with filename.
; HELP                this help file
; INDEX               Asks for the host's list of public files
; SIZE xxx            Size per split (1500-45000)
;Note on filenames: DOS wildcards are accepted, but not unix regex.
;
;
;Questions? Email root@chigate.fidonet.org ..
```

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 15:38:49 1994
From: tech@cs.athabascau.ca (Richard Loken)
Subject: whining about lost boatanchors

I have lost literally a ton of "good stuff" over the years by moving and not being able to justify moving all that scrap another thousand miles but the low point was my Heath SB station.

I had an SB301 with all the filters and matching speaker, DX40, AND VF1. I bought an SB401 when I was 25 or so and spent six months building it. Meanwhile I lost my job and continued to build the 401, I finally got a job and, in a state of financial insolvency, moved 2000 miles with just a suitcase.

I finished the 401 the day before I left for the new job, a few weeks later somebody broke into my sort of abandoned house and stole all my ham gear including the brand new, never turned on SB401.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAaarrrrrrrrrghh. That one still bugs me 17 years later.

Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS : "...underneath those
Athabasca University : tuques we wear, our heads
Athabasca, Alberta Canada : are naked!"
** tech@cs.athabascau.ca ** : - Aurthor Black

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 13:56:06 1994
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu
Subject: Worst BA Deals

to: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu

Greetings.

Well, the "I wish I still had" stories about long ago swapped / sold / given away gear are pretty sad, but for MY money the ones that are even worse are the ones about gear which, for one reason or another, we scrapped!

In that category for me are two different BC-654s, a BC-610, a Hallicrafters HT-20, and (hang onto your hat for this one) a Johnson "500"!

The worst part is that I know very well I did it to myself!

Mr. T.

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 15:07:07 1994
From: "Skelton, Tom" <TSkelton@engineer.clemsonsc.NCR.COM>
Subject: WORST BA DEALS ARE DONE TO OURSELVES!

>From: owner-boatanchors
To: boatanchors
Subject: Worst BA Deals
Date: Thursday, August 11, 1994 10:48AM

to: boatanchors@gnu.ai.mit.edu

Greetings.

Well, the "I wish I still had" stories about long ago swapped / sold / given away gear are pretty sad, but for MY money the ones that are even worse are the ones about gear which, for one reason or another, we scrapped!

In that category for me are two different BC-654s, a BC-610, a

Hallicrafters

HT-20, and (hang onto your hat for this one) a Johnson "500"!

The worst part is that I know very well I did it to myself!

Mr. T.

I was wondering if I even DARED bare my soul and admit the same, but since T has done it I might as well too. Around about 1970/1971, I completely disassembled a Heath DX-35 and a Hallicrafters S-20R. Both were in working order and just needed a couple of new tubes each. This was my novice station. No, I have no idea what the hell I was thinking! I still have a couple of small boxes of miscellaneous parts from them.....but the chassis are gone gone gone.....73, Tom WB4iUX (Tom.Skelton@ClemsonSC.NCR.COM)

PS: Yes, I am saving the small boxes of miscellaneous parts because somewhere there are an S20R and DX35 waiting to come home from a hamfest with me. I paid \$20 for the S20R in 1968 and the DX35 was a "permanent loaner."

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:59:42 1994

From: klaudon@PICA.ARMY.MIL

Subject: Re: WORST BA DEALS ARE DONE TO OURSELVES!

>From: "Skelton, Tom" <TSkelton@engineer.clemsonsc.ncr.com>

>I was wondering if I even DARED bare my soul and admit the same, but
>since T has done it I might as well too. Around about 1970/1971, I
>completely disassembled a Heath DX-35 and a Hallicrafters S-20R.
>Both were in working order and just needed a couple of new tubes each.
>This was my novice station. No, I have no idea what the hell I was
>thinking! I still have a couple of small boxes of miscellaneous parts
>from them.....but the chassis are gone gone gone.....73, Tom WB4iUX
>

>PS: Yes, I am saving the small boxes of miscellaneous parts because
>somewhere there are an S20R and DX35 waiting to come home from
>a hamfest with me. I paid \$20 for the S20R in 1968 and the DX35 was
>a "permanent loaner."

When I was a kid, I happened upon one of those big, old record changer/amp/speaker "record players" in the huge leatherette covered portable cabinets. It had a nice neat audio amp on a separate chassis. I removed the amp (yes, it was working perfectly), disassembled approx. 1/2 of it for parts, replaced the chassis, and stored the now nonfunctioning record player away. The parts went into my junkbox.

A while later, when undertaking some ham project, my dad looked into what I was doing, and asked me where I got some of those junkbox resistors and caps. Well, he hit the roof when he found out that I had stripped them from a working unit! He suspended all work on the ham project, declared radio silence from my shack (even receiving), made me get that record player back up from the garage, and made me rebuild the amp so that it worked! Mind you, I had removed the last stage, and a few other components, and had no schematic. I did get it working again, and got a stern warning "never to strip a piece of working gear!!".

Geez, I was the one who had brought home the audio gear in the first place! Basically, my dad had given up ham radio for audio early in his career, and I think he was insulted that I had sacrificed a piece of audio gear for a ham radio project! And over a lousy old mono changer! Sheesh.

Things were never the same between us after that! :)

73, Kalman WD6CZI klaudon@pica.army.mil

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 16:42:20 1994
From: Richard E Robinson <rerobins@uncc.edu>
Subject: Worst boatanchor deal

My horror tale is not what I bought, but what I sold.

In 1965, when I was 16 by the way, I spent my summer yard cutting money, \$100 for a NEW, never issued, matched set of RBM-5 receivers. These guys came in the wooden shipping crate, with a metal case with detachable legs, complete with manuals, power supplies, and the extremely rare control unit. They had been sealed up for over 20 years. I still cry when I remember how beautiful they were. The LF receiver covered 100-1500 KHz I remember right, and the other 1500 - 18 MHz.

In 1968, I was getting ready to go in the USAF and I sold the LF model to a local ham who was also a BCB DXer. My best friend, Willard WA4VSR, got the other receiver and the control unit. I kept the case until about 6 years ago, when I got tired of storing it.

Does anyone remember these radios? I think they may have been made by Westinghouse.

The good part is I made \$25 on the deal. :^(

I also sold my novice receiver a Collins made TCS-11 that had belonged to WBT here in Charlotte. I got \$50 for it. :^((

Traded my R-388 in a cabinet, which looked original, for a Heath HW-9. I still have the HW-9.

To redeem myself, I paid \$25 for my EAC/Hammarlund R390A. The fellow I bought it from said it didn't work. They don't, when you leave the AVC switch in CALibrate.

Sold a BC-348 for \$25 back in mid-60s too. I could go on and on, but I need to go have a good cry.

Rick kf4ar

From ab4el.com Thu Aug 11 10:39:55 1994

From: JosephWP@aol.com

Subject: Re: Worst boatanchor deal

Well,

I will add my two cents (should be more in light of inflation).

My worst actions are like Ricks - not so much what I have bought recently, but what I threw away a number of years ago.

Thinking at the time that many of those tube things needed to go as they were just not useful any more, I disposed of a BC-611, PRC-10, RT-68, and PRC-6. Thanks God I did not chuck the R-390A, CV-591 or my TV-7 or the hoard of tubes I have had for years.

I cry every time I think about it!

Joseph Pinner +
Lafayette, LA
KC5IJD

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:14:15 1994

From: CCS_MAH@admin.fandm.edu (Mark Hemlick Ph. D.)

Subject: Worst boatanchor deals done to ourselves

Tom writes:

> but for MY money the ones that are even worse are
>the
>ones about gear which, for one reason or another, we scrapped!

Isn't this the truth! I did this to myself with my first station, which was a christmas present from my father. It included a used Johnson Viking

Adventurer, a Heath VF-1 VFO, an SX-99 and some sort of Mil surplus "test instrument" which I could never figure out. As the years went by, I lost interest in transmitting. Was away at school and dad called to say he was cleaning out the basement and asked if he could get rid of the Adventurer, VFO, and "instrument". "Sure, dad, go ahead, we don't need that _junk_ any more."

Now, this was "regrettable", but the loss of the SX-99 is even worse. I still had an interest in SWL'ing so I took the Hallicrafters from PA to Washington state to use while I was in school. Didn't use it much. Then, it came time to load up the car and move to Texas. After 4 years, I accumulated quite a bit of stuff. Now, the SX-99 weighed about 30-40 lbs and with it loaded the car wouldn't do 40 up even a small hill. So, I "dropped anchor" with a friend. To make a long story shorter, we drifted apart during the next year and my "anchor" drifted to an unrecoverable depth along with the friendship.

But, sometimes a sour-grapes attitude can mitigate the sting of this sort of loss. The SX-99 didn't receive SSB and I always wanted a receiver that did. Now I have an SX-96, which has all of the deficiencies of the '99, but does receive SSB. I'm happy.

73 Mark KA3LFG

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 14:41:35 1994
From: djw@unlinfo.unl.edu (Daniel Wright)
Subject: Re: Worst boatanchor deals done to ourselves

>Tom writes:

>

>> but for MY money the ones that are even worse are

>>the

>>ones about gear which, for one reason or another, we scrapped!

There was this guy,see.... He obtained,absolutely free,a COMPLETE TCS transmitter/receiver(tcs14,I believe)with a power supply that weighed over 100lbs...it must've!!,ALL cables,antenna tuning unit,there may even have been some sort of manuals,in very good condition. No missing knobs.. No busted or missing meters..No sticky "mystery goo" on any of the connectors..would have cleaned up nicely. He moved to a new house and couldn't get any of the in-laws that were helping his family move to help him move his radio stuff. After he got all of the BAs,ricboxes,tubes,parts,test gear,etc. moved,the last thing was the TCS. Being completely exhausted,pissed,and wet(he had to move on the day of the biggest blizzard in Nebraska in 5 years),he stupidly left the whole she-bang (the tcs gear) out by the garbage to be picked up by the refuse guys...<:-(

Man!! Was that guy an idiot 'er what??

Dan,WA0JRD and djw@unlinfo.unl.edu

From ab4el.com Fri Aug 12 21:22:42 1994
From: lhalliday@creo.bc.ca
Subject: Yet another way to burn computer time

A very useful WWW site came to my attention today, and being a gargantuan technical bookstore who do lots of business in used books, it may be of interest to other BA folks too.

Powell's Technical Bookstore, Portland, Oregon has to be seen to be believed. You can get to them via WWW on

<http://www.technical.powells.portland.or.us>

..which includes a database of what they have in stock, ordering and contact information, and so on. To whet your appetite, my first snoop through Mosaic turned up a copy of the 4th edition (1952) Radiotron Designer's Handbook...I phoned them and quoted credit card numbers a few picoseconds later.

Usual disclaimer: I have no financial interest in Powell's. Just a customer (and fan) who spends the occasional weekend in Portland for the express purpose of shopping at Powell's.

73 from Burnaby,
laura VE7LDH

From ab4el.com Wed Aug 10 18:53:26 1994
From: Clark Fishman (FSAC-FCD) <cfishman@PICA.ARMY.MIL>
Subject: [PICA.ARMY.MIL FSAC3 Mail Syst: Failed mail (msg.aa00937)]

----- Forwarded message # 1:

Date: Wed, 10 Aug 94 15:46:26 EDT
>From: PICA.ARMY.MIL FSAC3 Mail System <mmdf@PICA.ARMY.MIL>
Sender: mmdf@PICA.ARMY.MIL
Subject: Failed mail (msg.aa00937)
To: cfishman@pica.army.mil
Message-ID: <9408101546.aa05577@FSAC3.PICA.ARMY.MIL>

Your message could not be delivered to
'boatanchor@gnu.ai.mit.edu (host: gnu.ai.mit.edu) (queue: smtp)' for the following
reason: ' <boatanchor@gnu.ai.mit.edu>... User unknown'

Your message follows:

Date: Wed, 10 Aug 94 15:43:57 EDT
>From: Clark Fishman (FSAC-FCD) <cfishman@PICA.ARMY.MIL>
To: boatanchor@gnu.ai.mit.edu
Subject: General Coverage RX
Message-ID: <9408101543.aa00937@FSAC3.PICA.ARMY.MIL>

If your rig only receives the ham bands and you want all band coverage a simple converter in front of the receiver could do the trick....Use 10 meters as the tunable IF on your existing RX and build a converter with a double balanced mixer having a local oscillator operating 28 MHZ higher than the RF input frequency....a simple 3 chip frequency synthesizer could be used for the local oscillator.

Use some band pass filters on the input to the mixer and terminate the IF port with a 50 ohm diplexer and about 8 Db of gain...this will give a system gain from antenna input to IF output of about 0 Db.....no loss...no gain....

Have fun

Clark Fishman WA2UNN cfishman@pica.army.mil

----- End of forwarded messages